

BOOK REVIEWS

The Internal Secretions. By Arthur Weil. Translated by Jacob Gutman. 3rd ed. 287 pages. Illustrated. New York: Macmillan Co. 1924.

Weil, a physiologist, has approached the presentation of endocrinology from a somewhat different angle than the majority of text-books on the subject. Instead of considering the various ductless glands separately, describing their functions and the clinical syndromes that are the result of abnormal function, the author has attempted an airplane view over the field, in an effort to correlate the various glands in a unified manner with reference to particular body functions. Some of the chapter headings will illustrate his conception: "The Circulation of the Blood," "Respiration and Voice Production," "Metabolism," "Growth and Bodily Form," "Reproduction," "The Sexual Impulse," "The Mind and the Internal Secretions," "The Chemistry of the Secretions," etc.

The first edition was published toward the close of 1920. That a third edition appears so soon indicates a certain amount of popularity, which is further attested by translations into Spanish, Russian, Japanese, and now into English. The translator deserves credit. He has avoided a literal clumsy rendition from German to English, and has produced a version gracefully phrased and pleasant to read.

No bibliography is included, which is a wise decision; it would either suffer from incompleteness or else tremendously enlarge the book and merely duplicate what has already been done exhaustively in the works of Biedl and Barker, one of which has 500 pages, and the other 700 pages of references.

The third German edition (of which this is a translation) appeared in January, 1923. Consequently, very important researches, such as insulin, Evans' and Smith's work on the hormones of the anterior lobe of the hypophysis, and Allen's and Doisy's work on the ovarian hormone are not included.

This book can be genuinely commended for perusal by medical students and physicians, especially if it be understood that it is not a short cut to diagnosis and treatment. It is a welcome exception to some of the fantastic endocrine twaddle that has appeared in recent years. H. L.

The Human Testis. By Max Thorek. 548 pages. Illustrated. Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Co. 1924.

This book is certainly worth while reading, and will be welcomed and studied by many surgeons. It has the merit of being the only book written in any language containing all the information about the human testicle a surgeon could look for. Therein we have the organ and its functions in normal condition, its pathology from all angles, and the therapy, as the author in his vast experience sees it. One would be tempted to say, Nothing was forgotten. While the book could not enter into the medical treatment of the tubercular nor the syphilitic, tuberculosis of the testicle is well described, and its surgical treatment very well gone into.

The author justly emphasizes the frequency of syphilis of the testicle, and syphilologists will bear him witness how many a man's testis can be saved from the surgeon's knife by proper antiluetic treatment. The book contains 548 pages, is bulky enough to scare off the occasional reader, but it is written most interestingly, and we could hardly suggest having any part eliminated, not even the very interesting historical data, which may not be essential from a practical standpoint.

Thorek deserves especial credit for his extremely

interesting and costly animal experiment. To castrate six monkeys at the same time would be a millionaire's pastime were it not that some of the glands could be used for the benefit of some deficient human being, but we read that the glands were frequently transplanted again into the monkeys.

Thorek's personal observations are thorough and well reported, a shining example being the study of a colored man who suffered a degeneration of both of his testicles after mumps. His studies on ectopic testicles are very good. Most of his observations, reinforced by the thorough study of the histological changes, contribute considerably to the better understanding of the many and distressing dystrophic conditions.

The conclusion that blood relationship is most important for the transplantation is not new, and is, as we would say, "granted," but the author impresses us with the extreme importance of the choice of the site and the technic. So far his technic is surely the best and gives the best results. While Thorek is rather conservative and modest in his claims, he is also very enthusiastic, and one must believe that we are at the beginning of great things.

The publishers deserve credit for the construction of the book and the reproduction of the beautiful illustrations. The experienced surgeon may find that some of the illustrations of the technical part of various operations are somewhat elementary, but minute information and instruction may be welcomed by many. V. G. V.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Monographs on Experimental Biology; Chemical Dynamics of Life Phenomena. By Prof. Otto Meyerhof, Kiel. Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Company.

Race Hygiene and Heredity. By Hermann W. Siemens, M. D.; Translated and Edited by Lewellyn F. Barker, M. D. Illustrated. D. Appleton & Company, New York, London, 1924.

A Practical Medical Dictionary. By Thomas Lathrop Stedman, M. D., Editor of the "Twentieth Century Practice of Medicine" and of the "Reference Handbook of the Medical Sciences." Eighth, Revised Edition. Illustrated. New York: William Wood & Company, 1924.

Principles and Practice of Obstetrics. By Joseph B. DeLee, A. M., M. D., Professor of Obstetrics at the Northwestern Medical School. Fourth Edition, Thoroughly Revised. Large octavo of 1123 pages, with 923 illustrations, 201 of them in colors. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1924. Cloth, \$12 net.

Medical Gynecology. By S. Wyllis Bandler, M. D., Professor of Gynecology, New York Post-Graduate Medical School and Hospital. Fourth Edition, Thoroughly Revised. Octavo of 930 pages, with 157 original illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1924. Cloth, \$8 net.

The Test Is Diagnosis—No man is competent to assume the responsibilities of a healer of any kind until he is well grounded in all the fundamental scientific knowledge about the human body. Until he is so trained his practice is a constant menace to the public health. If he agrees to treat but a limited class of diseases, or to confine his activities to but one part of the body, he is still a dangerous man until he is able to distinguish the disease which he purposes to treat from all the other disease he does not purpose to treat. Patients do not come labeled with their complaints, and the practitioner is manifestly unable to make a correct diagnosis until he has familiarized himself with the human body, the laws of its health, and the signs and symptoms of the diseases to which it is heir.—Harry E. Kelly, member of the Chicago bar.